



# The Royal Gazette.

## [SUPPLEMENTARY.]

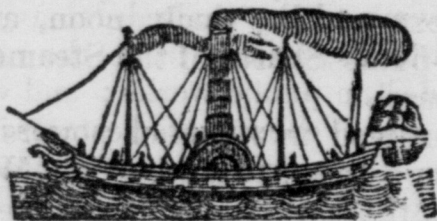
No. 365.]

FREDERICTON, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 27, 1848.

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### LATEST EUROPEAN NEWS.



[FROM PAPERS BY THE SECOND SEPTEMBER MAIL.]

The leading events of the week have been the prorogation of Parliament, nominally till November, and the departure of the Queen and Her suite for the "Land o' Cakes and brither Scots." Judging from the manifestations of Tuesday, on her way to and from the House of Lords, and when embarking at Woolwich, we should say that few, if any, Sovereigns so live in the affections of their people as does Queen Victoria. On the occasions referred to, there were no noisy demonstrations of enthusiastic loyalty, such as continental capitals have witnessed, and which can be as boisterous in the utterance of dislike when the tide of affairs have changed. It was rather the quiet and sincere expression of a deeply-seated affection for the person of Her Majesty, and a settled regard for the office she sustains. She evidently has, and as certainly deserves, the good wishes of all her subjects.

The peace of Europe in a great measure hinges upon England, and we hope that no step will be taken to endanger it. Our mediation may always be useful; our interference never.

The Session of 1848 is now past. Upon the whole it has been unparalleled in the history of this country. We never had one like it; may we never have another!

Parliament met on the 23rd of November, 1847, and, with occasional adjournments, continued sitting till the 5th of September, 1848. During this lapse of time, the House of Commons met 168, and the House of Lords 136 times. The duration of each sitting of the House of Commons cannot have averaged less than seven hours. The representative branch of the Legislature has, therefore, been at work in full conclave 1,176 hours since it met in November. This, however, conveys but an inadequate estimate of the time devoted to business by the 656 members of the House of Commons since their meetings. During the session, there have met 44 public committees, with an average of 15 members on each; 28 election committees, with 5 members on each; 14 railway committees, with 5 members on each; 17 private bill committees, with 5 members on each; and 112 other committees, 5 of which had 5, and the rest 3 members each. There have sat in all during the session 215 committees, requiring 1,301 members to constitute them. If the work had been equally divided, every member of the House must have served on two committees. How often the 112 "other committees" met is unknown; but the 103 sat among them 1,231 days (for at least five hours each day), or upwards of 11 days on an average. If all the members of the House of Commons had worked equally hard during the session, they would have gone through 168 nocturnal meetings, averaging 7 hours each, and 12 day meetings, averaging 5 hours each. But scarcely more than one-half of the members have been really working men, so their days and hours of toil may be about doubled. Upwards of three hundred of the chosen statesmen of the land have been labouring in their vocation of legislators 168 days for 12 hours *per diem* during 24 of them, and for 7 hours *per diem* on the remaining 144.

Still this (even were the committee and housework of the Lords added) conveys but an inadequate idea of the quantity of intellectual machinery that has been set to work to make laws during the session, and the time that it has been kept going. Witnesses have been examined; Clerks and others in the Government Offices have been set to cull, arrange, and digest papers from their archives, to be presented to Parliament; members have crammed for speeches, and wasted the midnight oil in preparing reports; lawyers have been employed to prepare bills, draw briefs, make speeches, bully witnesses, and puzzle committees; private conclaves of ministerialists, protectionists, Irish members, or inde-

pendent Liberals, have held long councils on the tactics they ought to adopt; busy bodies of all our "interests," spirituous and spiritual, locomotive and obstructive, have been scouring about, making demonstrations and canvassing members. The imagination recoils in despair from the attempt to conceive the amount and intensity of activity of mind and body which has been evoked during the ten months session to toil in the task of legislation.

### PROROGATION OF PARLIAMENT.

The "long and protracted" session of 1848 was terminated on Tuesday, the ceremony of prorogation being performed by Her Majesty in person. This greatest and most popular of our state pageants has lost nothing of interest from the regularity of its occurrence during the present reign, compared with those of Her Majesty's immediate predecessors, when, from various causes, the very ordinary form of a royal commission was more frequently resorted to. On the contrary, from the youth and popularity of the Sovereign, Her appearance in public to exercise the most important prerogative of the Crown, always excites a feeling quite distinct from that with which the ceremony would be regarded as a mere spectacle.

On the present occasion, everything combined to invest the proceedings with more than usual interest. Within the Legislature, Her Majesty's arrival to close the most laborious of Sessions was most welcome to both Peers and Commons; it was as much an act of the Royal mercy and charity as a duty of State. Out of doors, more than the ordinary preparations had been made to add brilliancy to the scene. From the Treasury to the Palace yard, Parliament street was decorated with flags suspended across the roadway, and from nearly every window the Royal Standard and Union Jack was displayed. The ordinary hour having been anticipated, the crowd was not quite so dense as usual; many, especially provincials, arrived too late to see Her Majesty pass down to the house, and were compelled to content themselves with witnessing the return. Shortly before one o'clock, a detachment of Life Guards, dismounted, were marched down to the House of Peers, the first indication of the commencement of the proceedings; the Horse Guards (blue) shortly afterwards took up their positions along the line of the procession, which had been previously kept by the police. No difficulty of any kind was experienced in doing so, for nothing could exceed the good order of the people throughout the day. At one o'clock the booming of the park guns announced that Her Majesty had left Buckingham Palace, and about a quarter of an hour afterwards the head of the procession, formed by the Carriages containing the Officers of the Royal Household and Suite, arrived at Palace yard; they were immediately followed by the corps of Yeomen of the Guard, preceding the State Carriage. Her Majesty, who was loudly cheered as she passed, appeared in excellent health and spirits. Her Majesty was attired in white satin with diamonds; His Royal Highness Prince Albert wore a Field Marshal's uniform. The usual military escort closed the procession. The bells of St. Margaret's rang out a merry peal, the guns fired a salute, and amid the sound of bells and cannon, and the cheers of the multitude, Her Majesty alighted at the House of Lords. The scene at this point and at this moment was splendid. The space from the Abbey to the Peers' entrance was a mass of colour, gilding, and quaint costume; and the most brilliant of summer suns played lightly on the halberds of the yeomen and the hreastplates and plumes of one of the finest bodies of cavalry in the world. But throughout the whole line of the procession the spectacle was a very fine one; not so much for splendour as a sight, as for the heartiness of the loyalty that greeted the Queen at every step. It was not the overstrained enthusiasm of a crowd, but the affection of a people, that found its expression; and it seemed as if the spontaneous decoration of the route on this occasion, with the emblems of royalty and nationality, was intended to show that the feeling of attachment to the Sovereign has been strengthened among ourselves by the events that have occurred elsewhere.